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East Germany

REPORT

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Military Activities in the Area of the Third Gdr Mecc Army

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 27 October 1955

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REFERENCES

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. After 15 September 1955, large maneuvers were held in the area between Weisswasser, Hoyerswerda, Bautzen and Goerlitz at the Nochten training grounds near Weisswasser. Between 17 and 24 September 7 to 10 troop trains daily arrived at the railroad stations in the maneuver area. Thirteen troop trains arrived on 21 September. The shipments came from Bautzen, Goerlitz, Zittau, Loebau, Bischofswerda, Dresden, Riesa, Doebeln, Wittenberg, Jueterbog, Zossen, Koenigswusterhausen, Luebben, etc. Still more trains arrived between 3 and 5 October. Between the evening of 3 October and the evening of 4 October, at least 60 troop trains, which were occupied to capacity, arrived in the maneuver area from the direction of Falkenberg. Some of them were unloaded on the open line and most of them did not arrive according to schedule.

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2. The following shipments were observed at the Wittenberg railroad station:

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5 October. A shipment with 6 x 85-mm AA guns, which came from the direction of Falkenberg, proceeded toward Dessau and was unloaded in the camp between Griebow and Apollensdorf.

6 October. At 2130, T-34 tanks

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which were loaded in Wittenberg and Pratau, and trucks, which were loaded in Bergwitz.

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At 0800, a shipment of 28 trucks, 4 x 120-mm mortars and 6 M-1943 122-mm field howitzers, which left toward Falkenberg. The vehicles had arrived by road from the direction of Pratau.

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At about 1000, a shipment of 28 trucks and 20 M-1943 152-mm field howitzers, which were loaded in Wittenberg and left toward Falkenberg.

At 1330, a shipment of 24 trucks, 2 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, 1 jeep, 2 x 85-mm and 2 x 37-mm AA guns and 4 converted boxcars with soldiers, which came from the direction of Falkenberg and proceeded toward Dessau.

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7 October. At about 0530, a shipment of 30 trucks and 61-1573 152-mm, which was loaded in Wittenberg and left toward Falkenberg. 2

10 October. At about noon, a shipment of 24 converted boxcars consigned to expectancy by young soldiers of various branches of service including air force, which came from the direction of Regensburg and proceeded toward Falkenberg. 5

3. Between 28 September and 14 October, maneuvers were held in the entire Wittenberg Flats. The maneuvers developed along the Elbe River, downstream as far as the Cobblersdorf-Miesenburg area and upstream as far as Luster. Soviet aircraft were seen for the first time over the maneuver area on 5 October. During the night of 11/12 October, reports of guns were heard in Wittenberg from all directions. No military activities were observed in Wittenberg. 7

4. It was repeatedly observed that the previously reported amphibious tanks always crossed the Elbe River at the same place. Soviet divers worked in this section. They dived from motorboats and used tools, hawsers and heavy anchors. It was assumed that an underwater bridge was being constructed there. At the place concerned, the river was between 2.2 and 2.4 meters deep. 7

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5. The following shipments passed through the Sperenberg railroad station and proceeded toward Zossen on 7 October:
At 1045, 15 x 75-mm AA guns, 1 armored scout car, 6 tanks, 1 ration supply truck, 1 signal truck, 2 boxcars with personnel and 32 trucks.
At 1500, 12 x 82/95 tanks, 2 armored scout cars, 2 x 160-mm mortars, 10 trucks, 2 signal vehicles, 2 tank trucks and 4 boxcars with personnel.
At 2000, 33 tanks, 8 trucks, 1 x 160-mm mortars and 2 covered motor vehicles. 7

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6. The following shipments were seen on 6 and 7 October:

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6 October 2 shipments From Jüterbog to Lützen ⁶
1 shipment From Jüterbog to Falkenberg) 10
7 October 1 shipment From Jüterbog to Falkenberg)
1 shipment From Jüterbog to Baruth
1 shipment From Baruth to Zossen
1 shipment From Zossen to Baruth

7. On 10 October, the Sachsenberg Kaserne (3082) in Cottbus was occupied to capacity by 2,200 to 2,400 soldiers. Soviet soldiers stated that the units had been in the Weisswasser area between 2 and 8 October. At about noon on 10 October, some 16 AA guns, presumably of 57 mm, were seen outside of the sheds. Some 100 motor vehicles were being serviced.

8. On 11 October, the Jvonsleben Kaserne (3084) in Cottbus was occupied to capacity by 1,000 to 1,200 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson and red-bordered black epaulettes including some with artillery insignia. Between 120 and 150 soldiers in new uniforms were assembled in the barracks yard. The formation included corporals and NCOs. They were presumably discharges who were to return to the USSR after 3 years of service. It was learned that some 100 soldiers were discharged in the Sachsenberg Kaserne at the same time. 11

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9. On 8 October, 12 soldiers each received instruction on a 120-mm field howitzer and a 76-mm field gun in front of the Alvensleben Kaserne (3CEA). The unit in the installation had 12 25X1
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10. Comment. For information on shipments to the Weisswasser area for exercises between 17 and 24 September, 25X1
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For information on shipments to the Weisswasser area between 3 and 5 25X1
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11. Comment. This was presumably an unloading of an AAA unit in connection with the exercises in the Wittenberg area. See Field Comment 6. 25X1
12. Comment. For information on loadings in Wittenberg and Pritzau on 6 and 7 October, 25X1
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The 9th Mecz Div presumably returned from the fall exercise and shipments of the 6th Gds Tank Div went toward Falkenberg.
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14. Comment. The train was dispatched in connection with the personnel exchange. 25X1
15. Comment. The maneuvers in the Wittenberg area began with the fall exercise of the 7th Gds Tank Div between 22 and 25 September. This exercise was 25X1
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presumably followed by the exercise of the 9th Mecz Div, which terminated with loadings south of Wittenberg on 6 and 7 October. It cannot yet be determined which 25X1
units conducted exercises in this area after 6/7 October. The 6th Gds Tank Div, which was entrained in Wittenberg and went toward Falkenberg on 6 and 7 October, presumably conducted an exercise, which developed from east to west (possibly similar to the exercises of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the 9th Mecz Div), and returned to the Wittenberg post after about 12 October. No indications have been received that the 14th Gds Mecz Div participated in exercises in this area.
16. Comment. For information on amphibious tanks observed near Gallin, The possibility that an 25X1
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underwater bridge was used for the fording practices near Gallin is mentioned for the first time. It is also possible that the divers were employed in the salvaging of sunken vehicles or equipment.
17. Comment. According to composition of weapons and direction of drive, these were presumably elements of the 2d Gds AAA Div, the 69th Mecz Bn of the 9th Mecz Div from Zossen and the 1st Tank Bn, as well as the 616th Fort Bn, of the 9th Mecz Div from Luebben. For information on loadings of elements of the 9th Mecz Div in the Wittenberg area on 6 and 7 October, 25X1
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18. Comment. These two shipments were presumably also dispatched in connection with the exercise of the 9th Mecz Div. 25X1
19. Comment. Elements of the 6th Gds Tank Div from Jüterbog were presumably loaded in connection with the loadings for the direction of Falkenberg at the Wittenberg post on 6 and 7 October. 25X1
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11. [] Comment. The duration of the fall exercise of the 9th Pecz Div had already been indicated by reports on transportation. [] The exercise presumably developed in the same way as that of the 7th Gds Tank Div. It started in the Tarnth area about 2 October and terminated on the Elbe River in the area south of Wittenberg on 5 and 6 October. []
- [] Elements of the division may have also participated in the exercise in the Weisswasser area. No 57-mm AA guns have been observed there so far. (1719th AAA Regt of the 9th Pecz Div.)

12. [] Comment. [] belongs to the 692d How Arty Regt of the 9th Pecz Div. This and the weapons observed in the installation confirm the regiment in the Alversleben Kaserne until 1 October 1955. []

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